

THE STANFORD DAILY (CA)
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LETTERS

CIA: a discriminating employer

I noted with interest your front-page article on CIA recruitment at Stanford (Daily, Feb. 13). Of the hundreds of employers who annually visit this campus, perhaps this special treatment is reserved only for those who purchase full page advertisements in your newspaper; nevertheless, the hiring and promotional practices of this organization, which makes discrimination against gays and lesbians a matter of official policy, raise questions of morality and fundamental fairness more deserving of neutral and critical journalistic attention than this newspaper has afforded.

In my view the issue is not whether students facing the job market today are more accepting of such an organization than the " '60s radicals" of 15 or 20 years ago, but rather whether graduating students

are — and should be — complacent about this kind of discrimination by an employer who enjoys the resources and the hospitality of this university.

The CIA among all federal agencies maintains one of the most rigid and most intolerant attitudes toward gay employees. Its position, that heterodox sexual preferences of its agents pose a per se risk to national security is not only indefensible on any objective view of fact and experience; in addition, it perpetuates the stereotype that gays are untrustworthy and unfit to serve their country. Its enforcement lends itself to the use of coercion and informants. It impinges on our rights of free association and privacy.

Neither the agency's own advertisement nor your article adequately discloses that this employer,

looking in its own words for "all the normal things," actually approaches job applicants with a particular and retrograde moralism designed to cement into an inferior caste those of us who in the conscious exercise of our individual liberties decline to conform to its dictates. By lending its facilities for the recruitment of new members of this corps of upstanding moral guardians, Stanford University cannot escape complicity in the perpetuation of this kind of invidious discrimination. Moreover, all applicants should be aware that by accepting a position with the CIA they implicitly endorse a policy which is fundamentally unfair and degrading to their gay and lesbian classmates.